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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

Attorney Docket No.:		MTIPAT.045A
Applicant(s)	:	Dean A. Klein
For	:	BACKLIGHTING SYSTEM FOR A LCD
Attorney	:	John R. King
"Express Mail" Mailing Label No.	:	EV 309075565 US
Date of Deposit	:	February 24, 2005

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022305

In re application of	:	Dean A. Klein
Appl. No.	:	08/835,732
Filed	:	April 11, 1997
For	:	BACKLIGHTING SYSTEM FOR AN LCD
Examiner	:	Dung T. Nguyen
Art Unit	:	2871

Express Mail Certification

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February 24, 2005
(Date)

John R. King, Reg. No. 34,362

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith to the Board of Patent Appeals:

(X) Supplemental Appeal Brief in twenty-four (24) pages.

(X) If applicant has not requested a sufficient extension of time and/or has not paid any other fee in a sufficient amount to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a Request for an Extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 11-1410 for any fee which may be due. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

(X) Return prepaid postcard.

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022305

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appl. No.	:	08/835,732
Applicant	:	Dean A. Klein
Filed	:	April 11, 1997
TC/A.U.	:	2871
Examiner	:	Dung T. Nguyen
Title	:	BACKLIGHTING SYSTEM FOR A LCD
Docket No.	:	MTIPAT.045A
Customer No.	:	20,995

Express Mailing Certification

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2/24/05
(Date)

John R. King
John R. King, Reg. No. 34,362

ON APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

SUPPLEMENTAL APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's request in an Office Communication mailed January 26, 2005, the Appellant respectfully submits this Supplemental Appeal Brief further to Appellant's Appeal Brief filed November 15, 2004.

In particular, the Appellant appeals the rejection of Claims 1, 4–7 and 15–20 in the above-captioned patent application. Claims 1, 4–7 and 15–19 were rejected in a Final Office Action dated June 17, 2004. Claim 20 was confirmed as being finally rejected in an Office Communication mailed January 26, 2005.

This Supplemental Appeal Brief is being filed in accordance with the rules of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 and includes a Claims Appendix, an Evidence Appendix, and a Related Proceedings Appendix.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the assignee of record, Micron Technology, Inc.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

The Appellant knows of no other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4–7 and 15–20, as listed the Claim Appendix, remain pending and are the subject of this Appeal. Claims 2, 3 and 8–14 have been canceled.

On June 17, 2004, the Examiner finally rejected Claims 1, 4–9, and 15–19. On January 26, 2005, the Examiner indicated that Claim 20 was also finally rejected.

In an Amendment Accompanying Appellant's Appeal Brief filed on November 15, 2004, Appellant canceled Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13.

Prosecution History Of Claims Prior To June 17, 2004 Final Office Action

The above-captioned application was originally filed on April 11, 1997, with Claims 1–19.

On March 24, 1999, when responding to an Office Action mailed on January 7, 1999, Applicant amended Claims 16 and 17.

On September 22, 1999, when concurrently filing a Preliminary Amendment and a Request for a Continued Prosecution Application, Applicant amended Claims 1, 16 and 17.

On January 16, 2001, when filing an Amendment further to a July 24, 2000 Request for a Continued Prosecution Application, Applicant added Claim 20 and amended Claims 1, 16 and 17.

On June 29, 2001, when responding to an Office Action mailed on January 30, 2001, Applicant amended Claims 1, 6, 7, 9–11, 16, 17 and 20.

On January 28, 2002, when responding to a Final Office Action mailed on September 28, 2001, Applicant canceled Claim 10 and amended Claims 8 and 11.

On March 29, 2002, when filing an Amendment further to a March 25, 2002 Request for Continued Examination, Applicant amended Claims 1, 16 and 17.

On September 30, 2002, when concurrently filing an Amendment and a Request for Continued Examination, Applicant amended Claims 1, 16, 17 and 20.

On March 24, 2003, when responding to an Office Action mailed on October 22, 2002, Applicant canceled Claims 3 and 14 and amended Claims 1, 4, 16, 17 and 20.

On September 16, 2003, when responding to a Final Office Action mailed on June 17, 2003, Applicant amended Claims 1, 16, 17 and 20.

On March 15, 2004, when responding to an Office Action mailed on December 16, 2003, Applicant canceled Claims 2 and 11 and amended Claims 1, 4, 8, 16, 17 and 20.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

As disclosed in Section III above, accompanying the Appellant's Appeal Brief filed on November 15, 2004, Appellant filed an Amendment that canceled Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13. The Amendment was filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.33(b)(1) and in an effort to reduce the number of issues on Appeal.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellant's invention is a novel backlighting system for a liquid crystal display ("LCD"), such as is used in a portable computer. As discussed in Appellant's specification, embodiments of the invention include a LCD housing that is made from a single piece of a single light transmissive material. This LCD housing further functions as a light pipe by conducting light from a light source embedded within the LCD housing.

In contrast to prior art computer displays, which generally include a housing for protecting an LCD and a separate light guide for conducting light into the LCD, Appellant's invention can result in an improved computer display. In particular, the Appellant's invention allows for a computer display that is thinner and lighter than prior art displays.

A. Independent Claim 1

As recited in the Claim Appendix, Claim 1 reads as follows (with emphasized portions in bold):

> A computer display comprising:
>
> a LCD housing made in a **single piece from a single light transmissive material**, said material having the same light transmissive characteristics throughout;
>
> a light source, wherein the **light source is embedded in the LCD housing**;
>
> a LCD having a back surface, a front surface and edges therebetween, wherein the back surface of the LCD is coupled directly to the LCD housing, and wherein the back surface and the edges of the LCD are at least partially enclosed by the LCD housing;
>
> a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the LCD housing, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating; and
>
> wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for conducting light from the light source directly to the LCD and protects the LCD.

With reference to Figures 4–6, independent Claim 1 recites a computer display including a LCD housing 50 that is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material, thus having has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout. *See* page 6, lines 12–14. That is, the LCD housing 50 is formed of one

piece of material that functions as a light pipe for conducting light from a light source 60 to a LCD 70. *See* page 7, lines 10–11; page 8, lines 17–20; page 10, lines 14–15.

As shown in Figures 4–6, the light source 60 is embedded in the LCD housing 50. *See* page 6, lines 15–16; page 7, lines 17–18; page 8, lines 8–9. Furthermore, the LCD 70 is positioned such that its back surface 72 couples directly to the LCD housing 50 (*see* page 7, lines 20–21), and the edges of the LCD 70 are partially enclosed by the LCD housing 50. *See* Figure 4. This configuration enables the LCD housing 50 to protect the LCD 70. *See* page 2, lines 16–18.

The computer display also comprises a reflective coating 53 on at least a portion of the LCD housing 50 outside surface 58, whereby light is reflected by the reflective coating. *See* page 6, line 19 through page 7, line 5.

B. Independent Claim 16

Independent Claim 16 recites a computer including a display similar to the display recited in Claim 1. Claim 16 reads (with emphasized portions in bold):

> A computer comprising:
> a display panel having a back surface, a front surface and edges therebetween;
> first means for generating light for the display panel; and
> second means made in a **single piece from a single light transmissive material** for housing the display panel, wherein the second means is connected directly to the back surface of the display panel, and wherein the second means at least partially encloses the back surface and edges of the display panel;
> a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the second means, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating;
> wherein the **first means is embedded in the second means**, the second means structured to function as a light pipe so as to conduct light received from the first means for generating light directly to the display panel; and
> wherein the single light transmissive material has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout.

With reference to Figures 4–6, the claimed computer includes a display panel (LCD module 70). Claim 16 also includes two means plus function limitations, a means for housing the display panel 70 and a means for generating light, which are described in more detail below with reference to particular portions of the specification.

The second means for housing the display panel 70 includes the LCD housing 50, which is depicted in Figures 4–6. As claimed, this LCD housing 50 is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material having the same light transmissive characteristics throughout. This light transmissive material is a translucent material (*see* page 6, lines 12–13) that functions as a light pipe to direct light to the display panel 70. *See* page 7, lines 10–11; page 8, lines 17–20; page 10, lines 14–15. For example, the LCD housing 50 may be formed of an ABS plastic, such as LEXAN® from General Electric. *See* page 6, lines 12–14.

The first means for generating light for the display panel 10 includes the light source 60, 62. Furthermore, the first means (light source 60, 62) is embedded in the second means (LCD housing 50). *See* page 6, lines 15–16; page 7, lines 17–18; page 8, lines 8–9. As described, the first means for generating light may include the light source 60, such as a cold cathode fluorescent lamp. *See* page 7, lines 17–18. Alternatively, the first means for generating light may include the omnidirectional light source 62. *See* page 8, line 15–20.

Furthermore, the display panel 70 is positioned such that its back surface 72 couples directly to the second means 50 (*see* page 7, lines 20–21), and the edges of the display panel 70 are partially enclosed by the second means 50. *See* Figure 4. This configuration enables the second means 50 to protect the display panel 70. *See* page 2, lines 16–18.

The computer also comprises a reflective coating 53 on at least a portion of the outside surface 58 of the second means 50, whereby light is reflected by the reflective coating. *See* page 6, line 19 through page 7, line 5.

C. Independent Claim 17

Independent Claim 17 relates to a method for conducting light and reads (with emphasized portions in bold):

> A method for conducting light in a computer system having a LCD and a LCD housing comprising:
>
> generating light from a **light source embedded within an LCD housing**; and
>
> conducting the generated light through the LCD housing directly to an LCD having a back surface, a front surface and edges

> therebetween, wherein the **LCD housing is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material**, wherein the LCD housing includes a reflective coating; and
>
> wherein the single light transmissive material has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout and functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD and as a housing which protects and at least partially encloses the back surface and edges of the LCD.

With reference to the devices depicted in Figures 4–6, light generated from a light source 60, 62, is conducted through the LCD housing 50 to an LCD 70. *See* page 7, lines 10–11; page 8, lines 15–20. Furthermore, as depicted in Figures 4–6, the LCD housing 50 is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material that has the same transmissive characteristics throughout and that functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD 70. *See* page 6, lines 12–14; page 10, lines 14–15.

Moreover, the light source 60, 62 is embedded within the LCD housing 50. *See* page 6, lines 15–16; page 7, lines 17–18; page 8, lines 8–9. In addition, the LCD 70 is positioned such that its back surface 72 couples directly to the LCD housing 50 (*see* page 7, lines 20–21), and the edges of the LCD 70 are partially enclosed by the LCD housing 50. *See* Figure 4. This configuration enables the LCD housing 50 to protect the LCD 70. *See* page 2, lines 16–18.

A reflective coating 53 is also included on at least a portion of the LCD housing 50 outside surface 58 such that light is reflected by the reflective coating. *See* page 6, line 19 through page 7, line 5.

D. Independent Claim 20

The summary of the claimed subject matter of independent Claim 20 is similar to the summary of the claimed subject matter of independent Claim 1. In particular, independent Claim 20 recites (with emphasized portions in bold):

> A computer display comprising:
>
> a LCD housing made by a **unitary construction of a single translucent material** which has the same light transmissive characteristic throughout;
>
> a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the LCD housing, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating:
>
> a light source **embedded in the LCD housing** so as to transmit light into the LCD housing; and

> a LCD having a back surface, a front surface and edges therebetween, wherein the LCD is coupled to the LCD housing such that the back surface of said LCD is coupled directly to said LCD housing, wherein the edges of said LCD are at least partially enclosed by said LCD housing, and wherein light received from the light source is transmitted from the LCD housing to the LCD.

With reference to Figures 4–6, independent Claim 20 recites a computer display including a LCD housing 50 that is made by a unitary construction of a single translucent material, thus having has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout. *See* page 6, lines 12–14. That is, the LCD housing 50 is formed of one piece of material that functions as a light pipe for conducting light from a light source 60 to a LCD 70. *See* page 7, lines 10–11; page 8, lines 17–20; page 10, lines 14–15.

As shown in Figures 4–6, the light source 60 is embedded in the LCD housing 50. *See* page 6, lines 15–16; page 7, lines 17–18; page 8, lines 8–9. Furthermore, the LCD 70 is positioned such that its back surface 72 couples directly to the LCD housing 50 (*see* page 7, lines 20–21), and the edges of the LCD 70 are partially enclosed by the LCD housing 50. *See* Figure 4. This configuration enables the LCD housing 50 to protect the LCD 70. *See* page 2, lines 16–18.

The computer display also comprises a reflective coating 53 on at least a portion of the LCD housing 50 outside surface 58, whereby light is reflected by the reflective coating. *See* page 6, line 19 through page 7, line 5.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 15–20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,844,773 to Malhi ("the Malhi patent").

2. Claims 6–7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,844,773 to Malhi ("the Malhi patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,661,578 to Habing et al. ("the Habing patent").

VII. ARGUMENT

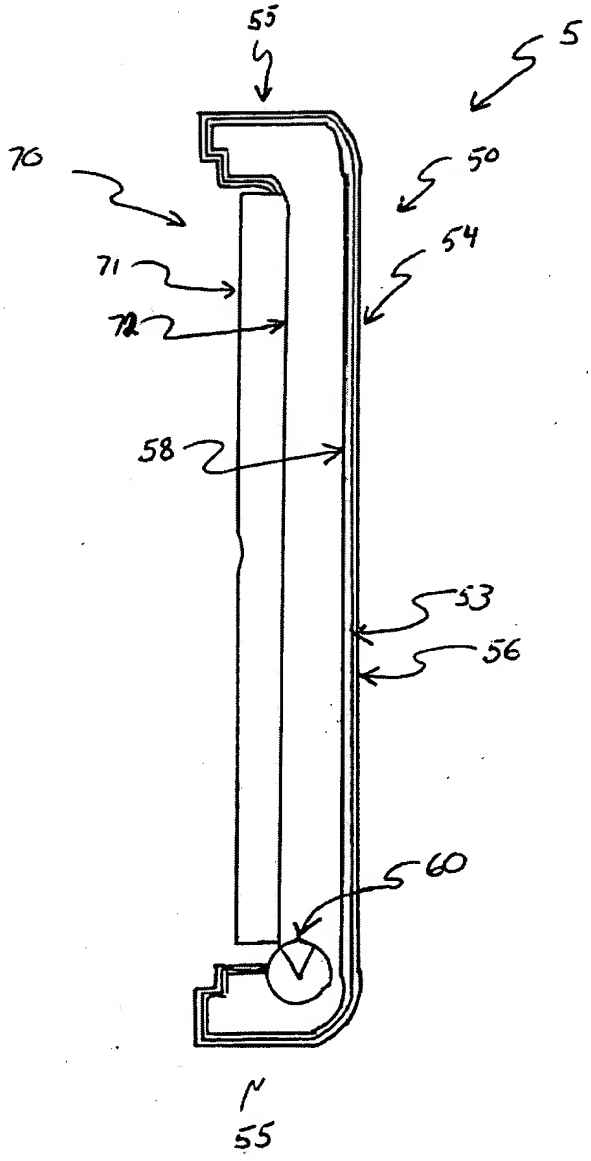
A. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Over The Malhi Patent

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 15–20 are not properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because the Malhi patent does not disclose every limitation of each rejected claim.

1. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 15–20 Are Not Anticipated By The Malhi Patent Because The Malhi Patent Does Not Disclose A LCD Housing Made In A Single Piece From A Single Light Transmissive Material.

In the June 17, 2004 Final Office Action ("the Final Office Action"), the Examiner states that the Malhi patent anticipates Claims 1, 4, 5 and 17–19 (and presumptively Claim 20) by disclosing a LCD housing made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material.

As shown in Appellant's Figure 4, which is reproduced to the right, in one embodiment of the claimed invention, a display 5 includes a LCD housing 50 is made from a single piece of a single light transmissive material. A light source 60 is embedded within the LCD housing 50, which functions as a light pipe to conduct light from the light source 60 to a LCD 70. The outside surface 58 of the LCD housing 50 may be coated with other materials (e.g., a reflective coating 53 and/or paint 56).



In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that Figure 4 of the Malhi patent, which is reproduced below, and the accompanying text disclose a computer display device comprising:

> an LCD housing including a case (22) and a light guide (80) made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material such as an acrylic polyurethane material (see col. 3, ln. 21 and col. 4, ln. 21), wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for conducting light through the light guide.

Thus, the Examiner characterizes the display case 22 and the light guide 80 as being made in one piece from a single light transmissive material.

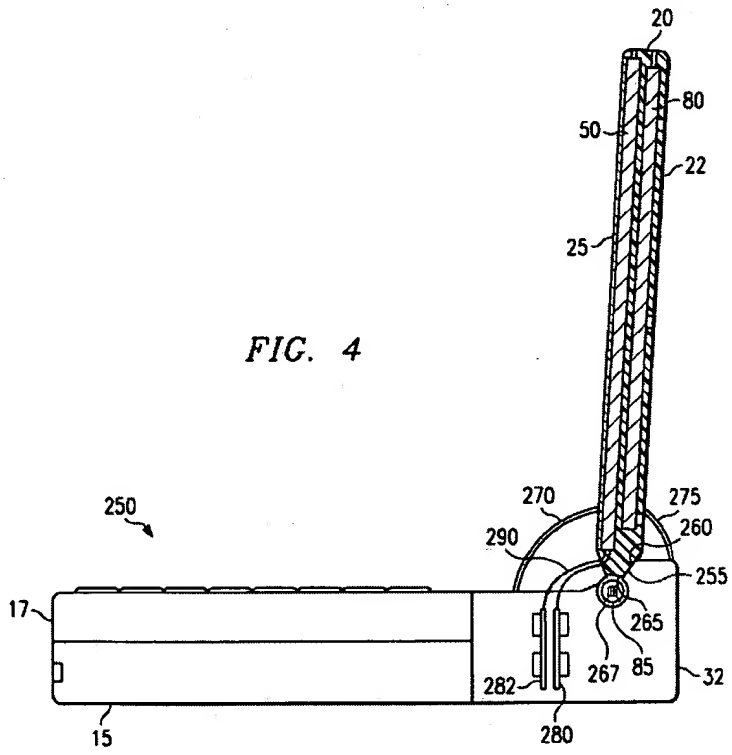


FIG. 4

The Malhi patent, however, does not disclose a LCD housing made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material. Rather, the Malhi patent discloses a computer display device comprising multiple pieces. As shown in the side sectional view of Figure 4, the display case 22 and the light guide 80 are distinctly separated into two components and are distinguished by two types of hatching. Under the patent rules related to drawings, the two different types of hatching indicate the use of two different materials. In particular, 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(h)(3) states that:

> The various parts of a cross section of the same item should . . . accurately and graphically indicate the nature of the material(s) that is illustrated in cross section. The hatching of juxtaposed different elements must be angled in a different way. . . . Different types of hatching should have different conventional meanings as regards the nature of a material seen in cross section (emphasis added).

Thus, Figure 4 indicates that the juxtaposed display case 22 and light guide 80 are two different elements because the hatching in each is angled in a different way. In addition, different hatching is used for the display case 22 and the light guide 80, which indicates that they are made of different materials. This hatching scheme is also consistent with the disclosure that the display case 22 and light guide 80 perform different functions.

Furthermore, although two portions of the Malhi patent cited by the Examiner separately indicate that the display case 22 and the light guide 80 may be made of a polyurethane material, the Malhi patent does not disclose that the LCD housing is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material.

The Malhi patent also states that the "light guide 80 . . . has a flat surface area coated with a white sheet of light reflective material." Col. 4. lines 21–22 (emphasis added). As the "light emitted from the light source 85 enters the light guide 80 along a side edge . . . [the] reflective material of the light guide captures the emitted light and distributes it evenly across [the light guide's] surface." Col. 4, lines 32–35. Thus, a layer of reflective material appears to separate the light guide 80 and the display case 22.

As a result, and in contrast to Appellant's claimed invention, the display case 22 in the Malhi patent does not appear to conduct light or function as a light transmissive material. If this were the case, as is suggested by the Examiner's interpretation of the Malhi patent, the light would be prevented from entering the light guide 80 because of the reflective material between the display case 22 and the light guide 80. Thus, the light would not be conducted to the LCD 50.

Appellant also notes that the Examiner issued a similar rejection based on the Malhi patent in an Office Action mailed on January 30, 2001, which rejection was presumptively overcome by the arguments in Appellant's Amendment filed on June 29, 2001. In fact, in a later Office Action mailed on October 22, 2002, the Examiner indicated that the then pending Claims 1–9 and 11–20 were allowable if amended to correct a non-prior art rejection. However, the Examiner now returns to this previous 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection, based on the Malhi patent, six Office Actions and nearly three and one-half years later.

2. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 15–20 Are Not Anticipated By The Malhi Patent Because The Malhi Patent Does Not Disclose A Light Source Embedded In A LCD Housing.

Even if the display case 22 and the light pipe 80 of the Malhi patent are determined to be "made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material," the Malhi patent does not disclose the light source 85 as being embedded in the LCD housing. In fact, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner does not even identify which portion of the Malhi patent discloses the claimed limitation of a light source embedded in an LCD housing. Rather, on Page 3 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner generally indicates that the Malhi patent discloses a light source and a LCD housing.

In general, the Malhi patent describes a display unit usable with a portable notebook computer. Figure 4 depicts a display unit 20 that includes a display case 22, a screen 25, a LCD 50 and a light guide 80. Light emitted from the light source 85 "shines into the opening 265 of the display case 22 and reache[s] the light guide 80." Col. 5, lines 64–65.

The Malhi patent, however, does not disclose a light source that is embedded in a LCD housing. Rather, as shown in Figure 4 depicted above, the light source 85 is <u>located in a base 15</u> that is coupled to the display case 22. In particular, the Malhi specification describes the light source 85 as being surrounded by a lower cavity 267 located within a base opening 260. *See* col. 5, lines 60–63.

Furthermore, the end of the display case 22 couples to the base 15 and is defined by a funnel-shaped fitting 255 having an opening 265 (*see* col. 5, lines 53–59), and the light source 85 is configured to <u>shine light into the display case opening 265</u>. *See* col. 5, line 63 through col. 6, line 1; *see also* Col. 6, lines 42–54 (with reference to Figure 5). Because the light source 85 shines light <u>into the end</u> of the display case 22 (i.e., the opening 265), the light source 85 is necessarily located <u>outside</u> the display case 22.

Appellant's invention, in contrast, claims and discloses a light source embedded in a LCD housing. In particular, Figures 4–6 depict a light source 60, 62 embedded within a LCD housing 50. Furthermore, Appellant's specification discloses that, to improve light coupling to the LCD housing 50, a "cold cathode fluorescent lamp [i.e.,

light source 60] may be embedded in the LCD housing 50." Page 7, lines 17–20; *see also* page 6, lines 15–16; page 8, lines 8–9.

B. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over The Malhi Patent In View Of The Habing Patent

Claims 6 and 7 are not properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because the combination of the Malhi patent and the Habing patent does not teach every limitation of each rejected claim. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner combines the Malhi patent with the Habing patent and suggests that the combination discloses the computer display of independent Claim 1.

Even if the Habing patent does disclose the use of a cold cathode fluorescent lamp for use with a backlighting system, the combination of the Malhi patent and the Habing patent does not render obvious Claims 6 and 7.

1. Claims 6 And 7 Are Not Obvious In View Of The Malhi Patent And The Habing Patent Because The Combination Does Not Teach A LCD Housing Made In A Single Piece.

The combination of the Malhi patent and the Habing patent does not teach or suggest an LCD housing made in a single piece. As discussed above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection, the display case 22 and the light guide 80 in the Malhi patent are disclosed as two separate materials.

Furthermore, with reference to the Habing patent, the housing 12 does not appear to disclose a housing made in a single piece. Rather, the housing 12 in the Habing patent is made up of multiple elements (i.e., the base 14 and walls 16, 18, 20 and 22), and there is no suggestion that the housing 12 is made of a single piece of any material.

2. Claims 6 And 7 Are Not Obvious In View Of The Malhi Patent And The Habing Patent Because The Combination Does Not Teach A LCD Housing Made From A Single Light Transmissive Material.

The combination of the Malhi patent and the Habing patent also does not teach or suggest an LCD housing made from a single light transmissive material. As discussed above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection, the display case 22

and the light guide 80 of the Malhi patent appear to be made from different materials that each performs a different function.

Furthermore, with reference to the Habing patent, it does not appear that any of the elements of the housing 12 (i.e., the base 14 and walls 16, 18, 20 and 22) are made of a light transmissive material that conducts light. Rather, the inside surfaces of these elements are covered with a reflective coating so that light from the light source 32, which sits on the base 14, is reflected across a display 26. *See* col. 3, lines 66–67; col. 4, lines 28–32. The housing elements do not transmit or conduct light to the display.

3. Claims 6 And 7 Are Not Obvious In View Of The Malhi Patent And The Habing Patent Because The Combination Does Not Teach A Light Source Embedded In A LCD Housing.

Neither the Malhi patent nor the Habing patent, nor a combination thereof, teaches or suggests a light source embedded in a LCD housing. As discussed above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection, the light source 85 disclosed in the Malhi patent is located completely external to the Examiner-characterized LCD housing (i.e., the display case 22 and the light guide 80).

Furthermore, with reference to the Habing patent, the light source 32 identified by the Examiner is not embedded within an LCD housing. Rather, the light source 32 is depicted in Figure 2 as being positioned on top of a base 14 of a housing 12. The light source 32 is further surrounded at least on one side by an aperture 44, a lens 40 and a filter 41. *See* col. 4, lines 42–49. The light source 32 is not embedded in any material.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing arguments distinguishing Claims 1, 4–7 and 15–20 over the art of record, Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be reversed.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/24/05

By: John R. King

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A computer display comprising:

a LCD housing made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material, said material having the same light transmissive characteristics throughout;

a light source, wherein the light source is embedded in the LCD housing;

a LCD having a back surface, a front surface and edges therebetween, wherein the back surface of the LCD is coupled directly to the LCD housing, and wherein the back surface and the edges of the LCD are at least partially enclosed by the LCD housing;

a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the LCD housing, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating; and

wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for conducting light from the light source directly to the LCD and protects the LCD.

2.–3. Canceled

4. The computer display of claim 1 wherein the reflectively coated outer surface is comprised of a material that attenuates EMI emissions.

5. The computer display of claim 4 wherein the LCD housing includes an inner surface and the LCD is adjacent to the inner surface.

6. The computer display of claim 5 wherein the light source is a cold cathode fluorescent lamp.

7. The computer display of claim 6 wherein the reflectively coated outer surface includes a metallic coating.

8.–14. Canceled

15. The computer display of claim 1 wherein the LCD housing includes an outer surface that partially conducts light out of the LCD housing..

16. A computer comprising:

a display panel having a back surface, a front surface and edges therebetween;

first means for generating light for the display panel; and

second means made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material for housing the display panel, wherein the second means is connected directly to the back surface of the display panel, and wherein the second means at least partially encloses the back surface and edges of the display panel;

a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the second means, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating;

wherein the first means is embedded in the second means, the second means structured to function as a light pipe so as to conduct light received from the first means for generating light directly to the display panel; and

wherein the single light transmissive material has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout.

17. A method for conducting light in a computer system having a LCD and a LCD housing comprising:

generating light from a light source embedded within an LCD housing; and

conducting the generated light through the LCD housing directly to an LCD having a back surface, a front surface and edges therebetween, wherein the LCD housing is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material, wherein the LCD housing includes a reflective coating; and

wherein the single light transmissive material has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout and functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD and as a housing which protects and at least partially encloses the back surface and edges of the LCD.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of generating light includes generating light with a cold cathode fluorescent lamp.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of conducting the generated light includes conducting the generated light through a LCD housing that is coated with a coating that reduces EMI emissions.

20. A computer display comprising:

a LCD housing made by a unitary construction of a single translucent material which has the same light transmissive characteristic throughout;

a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the LCD housing, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating:

a light source embedded in the LCD housing so as to transmit light into the LCD housing; and

a LCD having a back surface, a front surface and edges therebetween, wherein the LCD is coupled to the LCD housing such that the back surface of said LCD is coupled directly to said LCD housing, wherein the edges of said LCD are at least partially enclosed by said LCD housing, and wherein light received from the light source is transmitted from the LCD housing to the LCD.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

[NONE]

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

[NONE]